Packard (F. A.)

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IN

FRANCE, SCOTLAND, AND ENGLAND.

EMBRACED IN A LETTER

TO THE

Acting Committee of the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons.

PHILADELPHIA:

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1840.

To the Acting Committee of the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons:

Gentlemen,

On the eve of my late trip to the other side of the Atlantic, you were kind enough to furnish me with a letter of introduction to the *London Prison Discipline Society;* but I found no such society in being, and understood from our excellent friend William Crawford, Esq. that it has been for some time virtually extinct. Mr. C. was very kind and attentive, and seems to feel an unabated interest in the state of public opinion among us, and in the progress of improvement in prison discipline. He furnished me with letters from the government to facilitate my introduction to various prisons and hospitals, and with all the information I needed in the prosecution of my inquiries. A few general results of these inquiries may not be uninteresting to your society.

Among the institutions I visited were Newgate, the Penitentiary at Millbank, the Westminster Bridewell, Cold-bath-fields House of Correction, (all in or near London;) the prisons at Manchester, Hull and Glasgow; the new Juvenile prison at Parkhurst, in the Isle of Wight, and several houses of reformation for children and youth, both in England and Scotland.

The general impression made upon my mind is, that public sentiment among all civilized nations is passing through a great change on the subject of prison discipline. There is a very strong disposition to dispense almost entirely with capital punishments, and grave doubts prevail as to the whole system of transportation. Hence the inquiry becomes one of extraordinary interest: If the colonizing plan is given up and capital punishments seldom inflicted, what shall be substituted? Whether separate solitude with labour, or silent association, is most likely to answer the ends of penal law?

In the House of Commons, early in May last, Sir W. Molesworth distinctly declared his conviction that the transportation

system, in its present form, must be abandoned; and that penitentiaries on the principle of solitude and separation should be established. And in a debate on the same subject in the House of Lords, the Archbishop of Dublin denounced transportation as "the most odious system of slavery that ever existed in any country—not even excepting the worst description of negro slavery." In the course of this debate it was stated that the average expense of a convict, on the most approved plan of discipline, might safely be estimated at £18 ($86.50) per annum, and that the most perfect description of penitentiaries might be built for £120 ($575) per cell. The whole character of the debate evinced a very general dissatisfaction with the present state of things; and the disclosures made, in the progress of it, of the cruelties and licentious practices connected with, and almost inseparable from, the colonizing of convicts, were truly appalling.

There is at present, as you know, no system of prison discipline either in England or France. Indeed, the style of building, governing and furnishing prisons is far less uniform than with us—defective as our country still is in this respect. There is every reason to believe, however, that both England and France are much nearer to the establishment of uniform principles than we are, inasmuch as they have a national control of the subject, and we have not.

In France public opinion is settled in favour of the Pennsylvania or separate system substantially—1, for all untried prisoners of every grade; 2, for all juvenile delinquents; and 3, for all convicts whose sentence is for a less term than one year—and there seems to be no doubt that the same principle will soon be recognised in all terms and subjects of imprisonment. The efforts which have been made in our country to mislead the community respecting the tendency and results of the separate system, have had an unhappy influence abroad. Statements have been copied from the reports of the Eastern Penitentiary in Philadelphia by the opponents of the separate system, without the explanations which accompanied them in their original form; and hence the most unreasonable and groundless prejudices have been excited in the minds of those who rely on these garbled representations.

Some of the evils of the Auburn or silent system have been lately felt at a prison in Poissy. Complaint was made that the food was not half cooked; and because the governor did not heed

these remonstrances, the convicts threw their plates at him and his attendants. There was fortunately sufficient physical force at hand to subdue the rebels. On another late occasion, at the same prison, an attack was made on the turnkey by one of the prisoners, and his life nearly sacrificed. The separate principle effectually provides against such occurrences; and though they may not involve the escape of the convicts nor the loss of life or limb, their effect on a body of prisoners is most pernicious. A friend put me in possession of the opinion of Elizabeth Fry, whose name and life are indissolubly associated with the interests of humanity and universal benevolence, in relation to this point. She objects to the silent or Auburn system, on the ground that any thing which irritates the convict's mind must hinder his improvement and reformation, and that the restraint and severity needful to carry out that system do produce this effect. The same is true of stinted or half-prepared rations.

There are some singular facts incorporated into the last report of the Minister of Justice in France, which afford much instruction. The number of accusations submitted to juries during the year was 5,844. The number of persons presented in these accusations was 8,014,* of whom 1,460 were females, and one-third of the whole number were between 20 and 30 years old. The department of the Seine, which embraces Paris, furnishes one of the accused for every 1,218 of its population. Only 44 capital condemnations are found in the whole number. The number of accusations for theft was 5,325, or more than nine-tenths of the whole; and the average value of each depredation was 50 dollars. The accusations of a political nature were against 78 persons, 59 of whom were acquitted!

The accusations submitted to the correctional police, (in distinction from those before juries,) were 144,417; involving 192,254 persons; 37,870 (or about one-fifth) were females. Of the whole number 22,080 were accused of theft. In the final disposition of the cases 124,850 were fined, 42,640 imprisoned, and 2,463 were acquitted. The residue were placed in houses of correction, or under the surveillance of the police.

There is still another class of offenders who are presented to the tribunals of simple police. Of these the whole number was 202,814, of whom 170,747 were fined, 23,508 acquitted, and 7,656 imprisoned.

* This does not, of course, include 2,586 cases of self-murder, during the year.

There is one very instructive fact stated in the report; that of 6,000 criminals discharged by pardon, or by expiration of their sentence, 13 per cent. were accused within the year for offences committed within the first two or three months after their liberation. The enormous number of 248 plenary pardons was granted during the year, besides nearly 500 commutations. Nothing can render the consequences of crime more uncertain than such an extravagant use of the pardoning power.

I have annexed to this letter extracts from a translation of the very interesting and important report of the Juvenile prison at Paris, made while I was there. I regretted my inability to examine this institution. I had a cordial and ample letter of introduction from the very benevolent and excellent Baron de Gerando, which secured my admission to the hospitals and asylums of the kingdom; but when I went to the police department for a special permit, I was informed that such applications always remained in the office over one night, and that the next day was a holiday. I was thus prevented from visiting this prison on the only day I had at my control for this purpose. From all the information I could collect, however, I am persuaded of the general correctness and fidelity of this report. (See Appendix.)

At Glasgow, I found the principle of separation has been adopted in the construction of a new prison, built within the old prison yard, and probably occupied before this time. The Governor, (William Brebner, Esq.,) has been at that post thirty years, and his judgment is, for this cause if for no other, entitled to some deference. He is decidedly in favour of the separate principle in its most rigid application, but doubts whether it has ever been literally carried out. He thinks chapel-services are not to be compared, in point of efficiency and probable usefulness, with individual conversation with each convict in his cell. In the fourth story of the new prison, the space of three cells is taken for two, giving a small separate apartment to each convict to sleep in, where the occupation of the cell during the day unfits it for a sleeping apartment. There is also one room in each story, (furnished with a fire place,) to be used as an infirmary. I was surprised to find that no suitable provision is made in the new prison for the calls of nature—the common moveable vessels being judged best for this purpose. After I left Scotland, I observed a remark made by the Archbishop of Dublin, in a parliamentary debate, that the balance against a prisoner in the

Glasgow penitentiary, averages but £5 ($24) per annum, including all the expenses of his support; while to maintain him under a sentence of transportation would cost £35 ($168) per annum.

My visit to the Cold-bath-fields house of correction, brought me into contact with a thorough-going anti-separate-system man, in the person of the Governor. There were 1,100 convicts on the day I was there, 800 of whom were males. Every thing looked clean and wholesome, and the whole appearance of the inmates, and the police of the prison, was highly creditable. Eight or ten treadmills are in constant motion, but the power is thrown away. Whether it is considered more odious and degrading to work for no good end, or whether the useful employment of the power would involve more expense than the power is worth, I know not. Certain I am, however, that the time will come when it will hardly be credited that such schemes of discipline were tolerated in 1840. The whipping-post is so constructed that the body is bent over an upright plank, and the wrists and ankles confined by being thrust through openings, as in the stocks. The position of the body could not well be more favourable to a laceration of it at every stroke, and the straining of the skin in bending over greatly assists the process. The expense of sustaining a convict here, including every charge of the prison except the buildings, is $1.37½ per week.

I saw sixty boys here, most of whom were under sentence for two or three months, on summary conviction before a magistrate, (without trial by jury,) of being reputed thieves. They work and eat together, and may easily communicate by signs or sounds. Of course there was a constant succession of prison acquaintances formed here, to be renewed, at short intervals, under circumstances and for purposes fearfully inauspicious to their reform.

The Governor's prejudices against the separate system, have been engendered principally by the reports of one of our American Societies. He holds, that if a man is a confirmed rogue, no length or kind of imprisonment will reform him; and that if he is not a confirmed rogue, a much milder system than that of rigid separation, would answer all purposes. I asked him how we are to determine whether a man is a confirmed rogue, but by the failure of the best means of reforming him? And why it is that when they are satisfied a convict is incorrigible, they do not keep him in perpetual confinement, and thus save the community the hazard and trouble of having a rogue at large, and the govern-

ment the expense of repeated arrests and trials? He replied that the human constitution would not bear constant confinement. Such men must be let loose at certain times, if it is only to be caught again. He thought six months separate confinement would be safe and salutary; but he said he was satisfied from some reports he had seen, that no prison in the world had so much disease of body and mind as the Eastern Penitentiary. He seemed inclined, however, to modify his opinions when he was informed of the true state of the case. I was much pleased with his frankness and independence. He insisted upon it, that so long as man is a social being, it is a violence to nature to shut him up as we do; but he was unwilling to admit that to punish a man for not resisting the temptation to be social, is much more revolting to nature than to remove him from the temptation.

Without troubling you with any details respecting the condition of other penitentiaries of which we have excellent reports from other sources, I will proceed to give you a brief and imperfect sketch of the New Model Prison, now in progress in the suburbs of London. It is finely situated on what is called the Chalk road—a mile northward of King's cross, and near the Caledonia Asylum. Soon after I arrived in the country, I was courteously invited by our friends William Crawford, Esq. and Rev. Whitworth Russell, (Inspectors of Prisons for the Home Department,) to be present at the laying of the corner stone of this prison, April 10. Several of the nobility were present, among whom was Lord Melbourne; but the Marquis of Normanby, being Secretary for the Home Department, took the lead in the ceremony. He made some appropriate but very general remarks on the importance of the enterprise and its expected influence in ameliorating the moral condition of convicts, and in testing new and important principles of prison discipline. The impression upon a large concourse of people was evidently quite salutary.

The model prison is designed for 500 convicts. It is built on a most eligible site for dry soil and wholesome air, and encloses sufficient ground for all prison purposes.

The day before I left London, (July 24,) I accompanied Mr. Russell to the prison, and found three cells so far finished as to show all the essential peculiarities of their construction. They are (if I rightly remember) 12 or 13 feet long and 7 wide, and 9 or 10 feet in height. The outer walls are of brick, and the four corridors contain each 42 cells, or 168 on each of the three floors

of the whole prison. One wing is appropriated to female convicts. The points of principal interest are—1. The warming, ventilation and supply of water. 2. The preservation of the separate principle in the chapel services; and 3. the exercising yards.

1. *As to warming, ventilation, and supply of water.*—In the basement of each corridor, and about mid-way of its length, is an apparatus for transmitting fresh air (heated or not, as the season requires) to the cell of each convict, at the rate of six or eight cubic feet per minute. The air is heated by being brought into contact with hot water pipes, which process has been proved capable of producing an equable heat of 80 degrees, 56 being regarded as a healthy temperature. The flues for transmitting cold or hot air are so placed as to make a perfect, independent, unconnected channel from the grand reservoir directly to each cell, where it passes through a perforated sheet of iron placed over the door. The escape of foul air is through an aperture near the bottom of each cell in the outer wall, opposite the door, whence it passes into another set of separate independent flues, which convey it into a chimney or shaft rising above the roof. A rough diagram, A, which I have annexed, will show the course of the first class of flues, and the others are similar, except in their location.

The water is obtained from a very deep well (by convict labour or machinery, as may be deemed best), and is distributed from a reservoir along each corridor, by means of an iron trough, which runs along over the doors of the cells and under the gallery of the story next above. An independent pipe for the supply of each particular cell, is inserted in the bottom of this trough. A curve in this pipe is always filled, and proves an effectual barrier to the transmission of sound. The diagram B will aid your understanding of the plan. Six gallons of water per diem are to be allowed to each prisoner for all purposes.

2. The chapel is so formed, that it is immediately accessible from all the corridors; and the convict, with a close hood over his head, open only for sight, passes from his cell to his seat, which is just large enough to accommodate him comfortably. An officer is at the place to shut and lock the door, and his eye is fixed on each prisoner as he advances. He thus receives the second and succeeding prisoners. Each of these apartments or stalls has such a projection at the top as screens the convict

from the eye of his fellows before and behind, while the ranges of seats gradually rise one above the other, perhaps fifteen inches; thus giving the convicts and the officiating clergyman a distinct view of each other, while each of the prisoners is perfectly isolated as it respects all the rest. An experiment has been made, which shews satisfactorily, that 500 prisoners may be removed from their cells and quietly seated in five minutes, and under the superintendence of three, or at most four, officers. Whether the advantages of assembling prisoners for religious worship or instruction are so great as some suppose, is quite problematical; but if they are, I think the model prison of London carries out the separate system very completely, without sacrificing any of the supposed advantages of a social service.

3. The exercising or airing yards are entirely separate from the prison buildings, and radiate from a common centre, around which there is a dark circular passage, constantly perambulated by an officer, who, though unseen himself, has a perfect oversight of every inch of the grounds. They even go so far as to provide a shelter or covered way to protect the prisoners in inclement weather. At the bottom of each of these yards is an iron railing, but the partitions extend far enough beyond this barrier to prevent any communication at that point. The diagram C illustrates the construction of the airing yards.

I omitted to mention that the cells are to have but one door, and the windows are to be fixed in the wall so as not to open and shut. The cells appear to be well lighted, and the whole structure promises well for the best interests of the government and the offender. It is not intended to occupy any part of the building till it is entirely completed, and this will probably be in two years. The estimate of the cost is £75,000 ($375,000), and will probably fall within that sum.

The success of this enterprise is regarded as very important to the improvement of prison discipline, not only in England, but in many countries of Europe and Asia. The investigation of the subject is likely to produce a general breaking up of old systems; and the efforts of such a society as your's, were never more needed than at the present moment, to maintain and propagate correct principles.

Decidedly the best prison for juvenile offenders, which I had an opportunity to examine, is that established at Parkhurst, in the Isle of Wight, between which and London the communica-

tion is very easy. It was opened in December 1838, and most of the buildings appropriated to the establishment were formerly used as a military hospital and medical asylum for the children of soldiers. Of course the construction and arrangement of them are not such as would have been adopted in new buildings. Eighty acres of land are attached to the prison, but only one is enclosed by the prison wall.

This institution is within the general provisions of law regulating prisons, and has the usual complement of officers. The persons liable to be sent thither, are young offenders of both sexes (though only males have yet been committed) who are sentenced to imprisonment or transportation; and if they prove incorrigible or otherwise unsuitable subjects, they may be removed thence at any time, on the order of the Secretary of State, either to be transported or imprisoned in some other penitentiary under the original sentence, as if no commitment to Parkhurst had occurred. This feature of the law is worthy of much consideration, but I forbear to dwell upon it. Corporal punishment is allowed only on male convicts, and on them only for offences which are expressly declared by the Secretary of State to be so punishable. Three visitors are appointed by the government, who are required to visit the prison at least three times in each quarter, and report abuses, if any exist. The prison is open to their inspection in every department. A semi-annual report in writing is also required. An escape from a keeper or from the grounds, is punished by adding two years to the original term of imprisonment; and a second escape is felony; and it is also felony to rescue an offender or in any way aid his escape.

The rules of this prison are very minute and rigidly executed. I think the discipline far exceeds any thing I have ever seen. The prison dress consists of a cloth jacket, vest and trowsers, shirt, stockings, shoes, cap, and pocket-handkerchief. It is expressly provided that no prisoner shall be employed in any way for the advantage or convenience of any officer. The boys are not permitted to see their friends without a written order from the Secretary of State. The severest punishment is solitary confinement with bread and water diet; but this can never exceed three days without the written approbation of the Secretary of State first obtained; and even the Secretary of State cannot extend the time beyond twenty-eight days.

Four offences only can be punished with stripes;—1. Mutiny.

2. Violent or abusive treatment of an officer, servant, or fellow prisoner. 3. Wilful and repeated disturbances; and 4. Wanton injury to the property of the institution. It is required, however, that the punishment by stripes shall be inflicted only with a birch twig—shall never exceed twenty blows—and shall always be inflicted by a Warden in presence of the Governor and Surgeon, and not in presence of any other person. The rules and dietary are hung up in conspicuous places over the house for the information of all concerned. No officer or servant is permitted to have the remotest interest in any work or contract for work. The account books, journals, registers, &c. amount to sixty-three in number.

The buildings will accommodate 300 youth; but at the time of my visit only 179 were in confinement, under 23 officers and attendants, making 202 in all. The youngest was about 8 and the eldest not quite 19. The desirable age is from 8 to 14, or even 16. The first grand division of the prisoners is into the elder and junior departments. These two classes have no intercourse with each other. They have separate play-grounds and entirely different treatment. The elder sleep in solitary cells; the junior in halls, each in his own bed, and under the constant inspection of an officer. The elder have a quarter more bread than the junior. Each boy has meat for dinner six days of the week; and the elder have a pound, and the junior three-fourths of a pound of bread with each meal.

The neatness and order of the institution are admirable. A full supply is kept of the utensils (as brooms, pails, &c.) in each of the four wards into which the prison is divided, so that nothing need be out of place. I looked in vain for slut-holes or neglected corners. Each boy has his number and place for hat, frock, shoes, &c., and they must all be in perfect order on his person or on his nail. At night every boy is required to fold his clothes in the form of a knapsack, enclosing them with a strap, and laying them by his bed. Each has a little bag near the bed in which are kept his comb and brush, and they were clean enough for a toilette. All about the lodging apartments was neat, and tidy, and comfortable. There is a wash room or hall to each ward, in which wash-basins are supplied in sufficient number, and to each basin is soap, a soap-dish and towel.

The discipline of the prison is very severe, but steady and just.

There are eight officers, the chief of whom is a trained military man. Each of them has some military badge—such as gold lace on the hat, collar, or cuff; and this is not without its effect on minds like their's. The appearance of the boys on parade—facing, marching, and counter-marching in single and double file—resembles that of a corps of cadets. If a boy's shoe is untied, or his collar unbuttoned, or his hands or face dirty, his rations are stopped. Every thing betokens absolute subordination. The boys stand when they eat; and the order and silence which reign through the shops and yards are very impressive. An escape is difficult, as the coast-guard could not be passed without detection.

The dormitories are high, spacious and well ventilated. The infirmaries, though imperfectly lighted and ventilated, are very convenient in respect to fire places, boilers, bath-tubs, water-closets, &c. The cooking and baking, as well as the making, mending and washing of clothes, is all done by the boys. There were several large clothing contracts on hand for prisoners in the hulks. The income from labour during the week ending May 17, was about seventy-five dollars. A chaplain is attached to the institution, and resides on the prison land, though not within the walls. He has no other occupation but teaching and preaching.

Part of the boys are employed in shoemaking and tailoring, while the rest are at school or on the farm; and in these employments they succeed each other at stated hours of the day.

Each boy's clothing—every article of it—is marked P. P. (Parkhurst Prison) with his ward and number; and each has also an iron ring rivetted on one ankle as a mark of degradation, which is removed only for faultless behaviour. Ten or twelve only, I observed, were without it.

The principle of the school is to use no books. The session for each section is two hours long, and all the lessons are taught on a black board, from a gallery, by dictation. After the lesson is given, the class retire to an adjoining room, the walls of which are lined with slate. Each pupil has a yard square of room on which he writes what he knows or remembers of the lesson. There is a library connected with the school.

It is worthy of remark, that the time spent in instruction here, is not taken at the close of a day's hard-labour, when body and mind are exhausted, but at agreeable intervals between other employments. The mode of instruction is, moreover, fitted to the capacities and circumstances of the learners, *at the time*, and not

measured out as so much printed matter, to be guzzled down by all alike. And then, whatever is acquired, is made available at once, and the pupil feels encouraged to go on. It did not surprise me to learn that no punishment is employed in the schoolroom more severe than to be excluded from its exercises. Though the chaplain is the schoolmaster, he has an active and skilful teacher under him.

I exceedingly regretted that the Governor was absent at the time of my visit, though through the courtesy of the Chaplain I enjoyed a very minute inspection of the whole establishment. The Governor was kind enough to address a letter to me afterwards, from which I copy a passage or two. (Appendix.)

It is not possible that an inquirer into the condition of British prisons should fail to mark the influence of the new police system established there, *in preventing crime.* I am aware that some are distrustful of it, and disposed to think its advantages are overrated; but I saw enough with my own eyes to satisfy me that its power to prevent crimes is very great and salutary. One of many illustrations of it will suffice.

The moment we struck the wharf in an English harbour, a police officer was at our gang-way to prevent any person from coming on board the ship till his right to do so was ascertained. With another officer on board, and two or three on the wharf, our company and luggage were put on shore without confusion or molestation. There was no arrogance or official parade in all this, but simply the quiet oversight of our affairs by half a dozen very civil unarmed men to protect exposed property and to keep rogues out of temptation.

When we struck the wharf at New York, it was crowded with a motley group of all colours, sizes and shapes, and among them a full proportion of desperate rogues. While our captain was bawling, at the top of his lungs, to secure the fastenings of his ship, an adventurous chap found his way over the sides, and thence to the deck. He was instantly followed by a host of others, eager for spoil. When the captain turned around he found his ship's company intermingled with a crowd of strangers. To get them out was a deed not to be done, and to watch them was equally impracticable, and the only alternative was to put his friends on their guard. "Gentlemen," said he, in a stentorian voice, "take good care of your pockets;" but even this prompt warning did not come till after one pocket had been rifled. We

had two or three English gentlemen on board, who were quite amazed at this—the first speech they heard on our shores.

It is an admirable feature of the English police that it steps in between the rogue and the temptation; or, if too late for this, it defeats the criminal purpose in its earliest stages. The presence of these men at public meetings of all kinds, in front of coach-offices, at rail-road stations or depots, in market-places, on the wharves, at steamboat landings, and in all places of public gathering, must prevent a vast amount of crime. The abatement of petty nuisances also, which abound in our cities, the suppression of quarrels and tumults before they become indictable offences, and the general care of the public health and peace are among their duties. They do not wait until some citizen will take the trouble and odium of lodging a complaint at the police office. They feel that this is the very service they are paid for, and they do not expect any fee or reward for rendering it. It is well known that in our country the services of the subordinate officers of justice are not to be obtained in some of our large cities without a liberal reward is given or promised for their fidelity. In England, the police officer who should fail in vigilance or efficiency, would not be kept in place an hour after his delinquency is known. I cannot think it hazardous to say, that it is probable at least half the growth of crime would be prevented if the avenues to temptation were more strictly guarded on the one hand, and if detection were more sure and quick to follow the offence on the other. Both these checks are lodged in the hands of the police, and if there is a defect of vigilance or promptness in them, we pay very dear for it in the daring hardihood and hopeless incorrigibility of our rogues.

I watched the working of the police system in London with considerable care, and I am persuaded that there is far more respect felt there for the authority of law than in Philadelphia, to say nothing of New York, Boston, or Baltimore. And I cannot but attribute it mainly to the fact, that the presence of authority is made more sensible to each individual and at every point. It is a favourite notion of some persons that all police power should be reserved for great occasions, and interfere as seldom as possible with the business of the community. Hence, as I before intimated, a multitude of nuisances, committed in the face of the most positive ordinances, such as suffering swine to go at large, covering our side-walks with filth and obstructing

our most public thoroughfares, putting ashes, vegetable offal, &c. in the streets, encumbering the highway, drunkenness, brawling, and other disturbances of the peace, are suffered to pass unnoticed. This impunity not only begets indifference to the government, and indeed utter contempt for it, but it emboldens the evil-disposed to still graver offences, which at last demand the interference of the police and are visited with severe penalties. The precise point I make is this:—that such an organization of our police as shall secure a more general obedience to the laws in minor particulars, would greatly reduce the number of high crimes and misdemeanours; the punishment of only one of which often involves great expense, and chafes and irritates the public mind more than the abatement of a thousand nuisances at their first appearance, and before any sympathy or local feeling is excited.

If it should be said that the criminal statistics of London do not show this supposed superiority in the organization or action of the city police, I would reply that it is its preventive influence to which I attach so much importance, and hence its extent and power are concealed by its own operation. What would be the language of those statistics if this influence was withdrawn, is the test question.*

I regret to say that the practice of public executions is still tolerated in France and England. At an execution of two men for murder last spring at Lyons, an immense concourse of people assembled. And in London, at the execution of Curvoisier for the murder of Lord William Russell, the spectators must have numbered 10,000, if not 15,000. The gallows was erected upon the wall in front of the prison, and in one of the principal thoroughfares of the city. The execution took place at 8 o'clock in the morning, almost within stone's-throw of Smithfield market, and on market day! The crowd was composed very much of servants of both sexes, and persons in the lowest classes of society, many hundreds of whom I saw running to the sight without hat or cap. Some of the nobility and gentry gratified

* The admirable minuteness of detail to which the English government have carried their investigations of this subject, appears in the first report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Constabulary force. The second is on the eve of publication. Of the first, the Archbishop of Dublin spoke as "one of the most valuable documents ever produced by the present or any preceding government."

the same sort of curiosity by gaining admission to the prison, and watching the looks and motions, or listening to the "last words" of the wretched culprit, as he passed from his cell to the platform.

There are two classes of institutions which I have visited with great pleasure, and the objects of which are so closely connected with yours, that I will venture a few remarks about them.

The first are designed for children and youth of either sex, who are disposed, of their own will, or at the solicitation of friends, to break off their evil courses, and seek a refuge from idleness, temptation and want. Among the best establishments of this kind that I visited, was that at Glasgow, in Scotland; the Victoria Asylum at Chiswick, six or eight miles from London; and the School of Reform at Hackneywick, in the parish of Hackney, north of London, (both which are sustained by a voluntary association called the Children's Friend Society,) and that at Hoxton, in the suburbs of the city.

The institution at Glasgow is beautifully situated a mile or two from town, and has about four acres of land connected with it, which, with the buildings, cost $60,000. All the pupils come in voluntarily, and usually stay three years. The principal trades are tailoring, shoemaking, weaving, and book-binding; and they are so fully instructed in these trades, as to be able to pursue them successfully for a livelihood. There were 250 boys in training at the time of my visit. They attend school two hours a day, in three sections or classes; and though there are many things in the economy of the house which might be improved, there was indubitable evidence that the boys were contented and well governed.

At the Hoxton school there were 130 boys, and they are divided into two departments—the probationary and the permanent. In the former, the boys are kept for six months at some very simple manual labour, and in the latter they are employed as tailors and shoemakers. They have calls for more work than they can do, and for more apprentices than they can supply. The inmates are, for the most part: 1, such as are literally or virtually homeless; 2, such as are plucked from the initiatory schools of crime; and 3, of such as have been punished as delinquents and desire a refuge from new temptations. They receive some boys on a contract with the magistrates of a county, and keep them at $1.75 per week. The actual cost is much less

than this. The only punishment is solitary confinement, with bread and water; and four days of this discipline never fails to bring the most stubborn to terms. The building occupied by this institution was formerly a sugar-house, and, considering the disadvantages of construction and arrangement, too much praise cannot be awarded to those who have made it a happy home to many hundreds of boys in the day of their destitution and exposure.

The Hackneywick school was established about eight years ago, and provides for nearly 100 boys, in a building that was formerly occupied as a dye-house. A farm of 10 acres is connected with the buildings, which, besides affording a spacious garden, supplies grass, potatoes, turnips, &c. for the use of the institution. There is a little printing office, and also a smithery, in which the boys who are so inclined may gain some knowledge of those useful trades. There are also tailors and shoemakers, who do all the work of the house. A very good shoe is made by some of the smallest boys in a day, after ten or twelve months' instruction; and almost any boy from this school will command a premium when indentured to a trade. The school, the trades, and the farm, afford occupation in turn to the three sections of the school. Any boy can leave this institution at any moment he pleases, but it is considered disorderly to go without first making application to the committee, who sit every Wednesday morning to receive and discharge applicants. Notwithstanding this liberty, not one in thirty of the boys has ever asked his dismission. They wait till the committee are satisfied that they can do better elsewhere. It is worthy of remark that not a single case of flogging has ever occurred since the institution was established.

The Victoria Asylum was established ten years ago, under the special patronage of the then Princess, and now Queen, Victoria, and her mother, the Dutchess of Kent. There were 54 girls at the time of my visit. Some of them are placed there by parents and friends, or parish authorities, who pay from 75 cents to $1.25 per week for their maintenance. Others are sent by magistrates for petty larceny, vagrancy, &c.; and others are transferred from prisons by the interposition of inspectors, who judge them to be suitable subjects for the Asylum.

Every new comer is placed for six months in a probationary class E. This class is separated entirely from the rest, except at

school, family and public worship, and meal-time. They have no opportunity to speak or associate with each other for a moment. Each of this class sleeps by herself, though they all sleep in one room, under the inspection of a sub-matron. Class D is known as the bad class, and consists of those who have run out their six probationary months and are still unfit to be permanently classed, and also those who have been degraded for some grave offence in the house. This class always do the washing of the family. C is the second best class; and B is the infant class, consisting of children under six years of age, of which there were only nine. A is the best class. Each of these classes has a distinguishing badge on the shoulder (A blue, B pink, C green, D brown, and E yellow) on which her class and number are embroidered. The girls are designated by number and not by name. There is a fine vegetable and flower garden, in which the girls esteem it a great privilege to work with the sub-matron. Each girl has for her own use a white earthen wash-bowl, set in a shelf in the wash room—a piece of flannel as a wash rag, hung by one corner opposite to her wash-bowl, and a soap-dish and soap for her exclusive use. I was surprised to find that all these excellent arrangements end with only one towel to every ten girls. Each of their wardrobes is separate. There are two cows, and the girls have a little dairy, which is kept in the nicest order. There are no hired servants in the institution. The diet is stewed meat and potatoes three days, and vegetable soup and bread on the alternate days, with suet or rice pudding on Monday. The classes A, B and C, sleep two together; the bedsteads are all of iron, with mattrasses of good cotton tick stuffed with hair, and in this respect are much superior to those of any institution of the kind that I visited.

There is a valuable and well-arranged institution adjoining the Bethlehem Hospital, on the Surry side of the Thames. At the time of my visit, there were 56 girls and 76 boys, but the buildings would accommodate 220. Like the establishment at Hackney-wick, it keeps no inmate involuntarily. Some of the boys are regularly indentured to the house. They make shoes, clothes, mats and cordage. The girls, of whom the eldest is twenty, wash and iron and do all the household work. They are taken at any age, and kept while they wish to stay. The girls sleep in large rooms, containing 18 or 20 beds, and the boys in hammocks, and about 35 or 40 in a room. There is a governor, chaplain, and

usual sub-officers; and on the girls' side a matron, sewing-teacher and school-teacher. The chaplain serves also at the Bethlehem hospital. The chapel is divided by a board partition seven feet high, and the desk is placed in the centre, to command a view of both the assemblies. Nineteen-twentieths of the children have either a father-in-law or a mother-in-law; and a quarrel about the children of the first marriage generally terminates in their being cast out to take care of themselves. The bedsteads used here are very neat and suitable, and are the device of the governor of the hospital. There is a double iron frame, as represented in diagram D. The outside bar *a*, *a*, *a*, is the stoutest, and sustains the fastenings. The inside frame *b*, *b*, *b*, holds the sacking by cords which are fastened to it; an iron standard *c*, attached to the floor by screws at *e*, supports the foot, and the head is fastened to hooks driven into the wall at *d*, *d*. The head-board is iron, and the whole frame is round—the inner and outer frames being joined by short arm braces, as at 1, 2, 3, &c. There is not a flat surface about it except the head; and the whole weighs three-fourths of a hundred. The price is £22 per dozen, or about $9 each, including sacking, backs, &c.; and the whole thoroughly painted and varnished and put up. They can be made to turn up at pleasure, and are easily kept clean. The conveniences for bathing here are admirable, and the general appearance of the house very creditable.

The other class of institutions to which I referred, are Lunatic hospitals or asylums. Without wearying you with a detailed account of these, I will simply advert to the peculiarities of each, and the general impressions made by an examination of them. The two principal institutions of this class in Paris are the Bicêtre and the Hospice de la Sal Pêtrière. You remember that it was in the former of these that Pinel introduced the humane and philosophical system which now so happily prevails in the treatment of the insane. It occupies a healthy and beautiful site about three miles from the city, and has been used as a hospital about 200 years. The supply of water is obtained by buckets from wells sunk to the depth of 172 feet and 45 feet in circumference. The reservoir is 60 feet deep and 20 feet square, and is kept full by the labour of the inmates. These are 3,100 in number, and are all paupers; 900 of them occupy the insane wards, 200 of whom are idiots. Of the 700 lunatics, about 200 labour to some extent on the hospital grounds. The influence of

religious service, which has proved so salutary in the Hartford and Worcester asylums, is comparatively unknown here; for though there is a very spacious and beautiful church attached to the hospital, we were told by the officer in attendance, that none of the lunatic patients went thither except idiots and epileptics. There are many good contrivances here for bathing, and for filthy patients; but the general condition of the hospital, and especially the treatment of the diseased in mind, are altogether inferior to the institutions I have seen both in England and the United States.

The other hospital (de la Sal Pêtrière, so called from its having been originally a saltpetre manufactory) was converted into a place of confinement for beggars nearly 200 years ago. It is an immense structure, being 1,680 feet long by 1,164 broad, and covering 109,000 square yards. The principal front is 600 feet in length. The largest number of inmates received in any one year is 9,000. The buildings are now appropriated exclusively to women, the number of whom on the day of my visit was 5,500, of whom 1,200 were lunatics, 500 epileptics, and 300 idiots. My fancy never could have painted the horrible spectacle I saw in their wards and yards. In one of the enclosures I saw fifteen or twenty small buildings resembling very closely those which are put up in Zoological gardens for particular classes of wild animals. The doors were double, like those of a prison. In some of them a place was fitted up much like the cages of lions and tigers in the menageries. The floor was strewed with straw. A thick, strong barrier, like a rack for cattle to eat from, separated the maniac from the spectator. Rolling about in this filthy straw, I saw a woman, nearly or quite unclothed, and an object of the most loathsome description. In going into two or three of these cages, I was cautioned to be on my guard, as they were *furiéuse*—and who would not be under circumstances so horribly aggravated! The idiots were nearly all in one yard, and their filthy persons and revolting countenances, added to their grimaces and mutterings, presented a heart-sickening scene. The epileptics and paralytics were less offensive, but their situation is anything but comfortable, as we use the term.

The woman who has entire charge of this army of lunatics, is of small stature, but of a sharp, shrill voice, and very quick and athletic in her motions. She seems to govern by mere self-possession. She could make any of the patients move instantly by

a word. The number of persons employed in the care of this immense establishment is 400.

The Royal Lunatic Asylum in Glasgow is under the management of a very intelligent and courteous gentleman, who takes middle ground on the subject of restraint, and inclines to the opinion, that where it is necessary in any degree, it is safer to trust cloth or leather, or even iron, than the excitable nerves and muscles of a keeper. The classification adopted here places the paupers on the first floor, the lowest class of pay patients on the second floor, and the highest on the third floor. A new building is in contemplation, and an improved mode of classifying the patients. The Governor unites with Mr. Crawford and many other gentlemen in a strong desire that some proper channel of communication may be opened between us and our trans-atlantic friends, by which the results of experience and observation on these and kindred subjects may be made of common advantage.* He has never seen any of the reports of the Worcester Asylum.

The Lunatic Asylum at Northampton, in England, embraces twenty-four acres of ground, and with the buildings cost £24,000 ($96,000). It is a private establishment erected and maintained like Friends' Asylum at Frankford, by voluntary contribution. The governors, who are constituted such by a subscription of thirty guineas, may admit or reject applicants as they please. Parishes support their paupers here at an expense of 9*s.* or $2.25 per week, exclusive of clothes and medical attendance. A quarter's expense is paid in advance, and a bond is given to pay all other expenses and to remove the patient if required. Pay-patients (who are not paupers) are charged from 12*s.* ($3) to 31*s.* 6*d.* ($7.87½) according to the treatment they require. Eighty-three per cent. of all the patients are employed, and 94 per cent. of all the male patients. The non-restraining principle is applied here in its ultra form. In one instance, the day I was there, the bed and bed-clothes of a patient were completely changed four times between 8 and 12 o'clock—a warm bath prepared each time, and the patient washed and her clothes changed throughout, rather than use severe measures for correcting or counteracting her propensities. In violent cases the patient is placed alone, in

* I am happy to say, that such an arrangement as is here suggested, is likely to be made between the American Sunday School Union and the Messrs. Bagsters of London, of which all parties interested may avail themselves on prescribed terms.

a room well aired and lighted, where there is nothing destructible, and treated with all the kindness which he is capable of receiving. The superintendent of this institution (Dr. Pritchard) is passionately devoted to his duty. He thinks much more depends on physical treatment than is usually supposed, and gave me several extraordinary illustrations of his principle.

St. Luke's Hospital for Lunatics, in the northern suburbs of London, was established nearly 100 years ago by voluntary subscription; and among the reasons set forth for its erection were, 1. That many useful persons have been lost to society by delay in the use of remedies, or by an unskilful treatment of mental diseases. 2. That some families, through the heavy expense attending the support of one member thus afflicted, have become objects of charitable relief, thus doubling the load and loss to the public. 3. That the common poor-houses are not proper places for lunatics, either in point of accommodation, attendance or medical treatment; and 4. that the best professional skill might be secured. All these reasons are of great weight in urging the establishment of lunatic asylums where they are not already supplied. The whole number of patients received at St. Luke's in the last 80 years, is 16,589—being an average of 207 per annum. More than half of the cases have proved incurable. Among the cases which render a patient inadmissible here are—1. The possession of sufficient means of support in a private asylum. 2. Having been insane more than twelve months. 3. Epilepsy, paralysis or idiocy; and 4. being under 12 or over 70 years of age. The governor states the per centage of cures to be 58. It appears by the records, that by far the largest portion of cases were those of the first attack, and a majority of the assigned causes of disease were domestic or pecuniary troubles. In one instance the cause assigned is an inordinate love of dress. The total average expense per head per week of supporting a patient here, including rent of buildings, taxes, &c., is $2.50. The dietary, forms of application, bonds, &c. used here, are very perfect, and afford hints for like establishments among us.

The Middlesex County Lunatic Asylum, at Hanwell, on the Great Western Railway, twenty or thirty miles distant from London, is exclusively for paupers, and is one of the most perfect institutions of the kind I have ever seen. I was indebted to the very accomplished gentleman, (Dr. Connelly,) who has the superintendence of it, for a very thorough and satisfactory survey of

all its arrangements. The non-restraining system is in full credit here; the boxes or "tranquillizing chairs," in which refractory patients were formerly confined, having been worked into the floor of the carpenter's shop!

There were 800 patients in the institution on the 16th of May, and accommodation for 850. The dormitories were all in perfect order, and every thing in the condition, treatment and appearance of the patients comfortable and inviting. The grounds and buildings at Hanwell, are laid out with so much taste and liberality, that I have thought it worth while to annex a sketch of them, (Appendix E.) The institution manufactures gas and beer for its own supply, and they have sixteen fine cows. The working men have a quart of beer daily, and the women and idle men have a pint.

One of the most admirable features in the administration of this charity, is the provision made for cured patients who are discharged without means of support. The object is to soothe and cheer the mind by a little sympathy and pecuniary aid at the critical moment when the patient renews his connexion with the world. The sense of destitution, and the perplexities and rebuffs which attend a search for employment, have often wrecked a sound mind; much more may they be expected to produce a relapse in one who is just recovering from severe mental disease. Some highly interesting cases are given by Dr. Connelly, to illustrate the happy influence of this provision. The analogy in this particular, between the condition of a cured lunatic patient and of criminals whose term of imprisonment has just expired, and also between the treatment which the respective cases demand, is too obvious to require remark. Part of Sir William Molesworth's plan before alluded to, is to furnish prisoners, who conduct themselves well during their confinement, with the means of emigrating at public expense.

The Bethlehem Hospital, on the Surry side of the Thames, had 429 lunatics at the time I was there. There is a separate ward, both in the male and female wings, for the confinement of persons acquitted of crime on the plea of insanity; and among others whom I saw here, was Richard Hatfield, who was convicted of shooting at George III., in Drury-lane theatre, forty years ago.

The Governor (Mr. Nichols) is quite a sensible man, but not disposed to abandon entirely the restraining system. Nor do I

understand that any of the opposers of restraint are prepared to dispense with it in all cases. I suppose that an ingenious physician, in addition to medical treatment, may contrive many ways of diverting the patient, or counteracting by moral means, the diseased influence under which he acts. But if they all fail, and restraint is required for the safety of the patient and those around him, all agree that it should be as mild and as brief as possible. There is, perhaps, some force in the suggestion made at the Bethlehem Hospital, that the involuntary restraint of the person often aids in forming a habit of self-control. But when the very peculiarity of the disease is the loss of self-control, involuntary restraint would naturally tend to irritate the sufferer and drive him to madness.

I saw here a most singular case of insanity, arising principally, if not wholly, from an uncontrollable temper. The patient would work himself up from some slight vexation or disappointment, to a perfect paroxysm of passion, raving most violently, and the tears rolling down his face in streams. Is it not worthy of much consideration, whether the defects of domestic and school education, especially in respect to habits of contentment, industry, and cheerful subordination to parental or other authority, may not much more frequently issue in diseases of the mind or causes of crime than is generally supposed; and whether a powerful argument may not be hence derived for more attention to moral and religious culture in every process of education?

And in this connexion it occurs to me to say that the opinion is very generally entertained among the most intelligent of those who have the care of criminals and paupers, that the prevailing systems of education in our day are exceedingly defective in three respects:

1. That their influence is not felt at an earlier period of life.

2. That they are not more efficient in power and more immediate in results, giving wholesome impulses and tendencies to the mind at the moment of their contact with it; and

3. That they have too little to do with the moral and spiritual nature of children. Some very elaborate and interesting inquiries have lately been made on this subject in some districts of England, and they force us to the conviction that education is a preventive of crime, only so far as it furnishes the checks and restraints of religious principle or facilitates the acquisition of an honest livelihood.

In submitting this hasty sketch of my observations on these interesting topics, I cannot forbear to mention the high opinion which is entertained of the doings of your Society. In the prosecution of their benevolent work, our English friends have availed themselves very advantageously of your experience. There are some wise and intelligent men who are not yet persuaded of the eligibility of the system which has been so successfully developed in the history of the Eastern Penitentiary. But I am inclined to think that their opinions have been formed and strengthened by the partial and incorrect statements with which they have been plyed. It is admitted on all hands that the system is capable of improvement, and that it is also liable to abuse and mal-administration; but as a principle of penal economy, I think it is gaining favour and confidence precisely as fast as its true bearings and results are examined intelligently and without prejudice.

With great respect,

Your friend and helper,

FRED. A. PACKARD.

Philadelphia, Sept. 11, 1840.

APPENDIX.

PARKHURST PRISON, (Isle of Wight,)
May 19, 1840.

* * * * * *

"The principles on which we proceed with young delinquents are these:—We hold that as the commission of crime by children proceeds from various causes, the most general of which is the entire want of religious and moral principle on their own part, as well as on the part of their parents or guardians, our first endeavour, after their arrival at the prison, shall be to ascertain the probable circumstances of their former lives. We do not find that the majority are driven into crime by poverty, but rather launched into it by the bad example of associates, and in many cases of parents. By means of a firm but kind process of corrective discipline, the officers endeavour to convince the prisoner that the restraint imposed on him has the double effect of reformation and punishment, and that the instruction he receives is intended not only to deter him from similar offences for the future, but to provide him with the means of self-maintenance by honest industry when restored to liberty.

"We find the great majority of youths accessible for good by these means; and we look for the consummation of our work, with faith, to the Lord's promise that seed sown in accordance with his gospel shall not be sown in vain.

"The cleanliness and order with which the several departments of the prison are conducted are valuable auxiliaries in elevating the standard of outward conduct. The youth who, under all these advantages, remains dirty or slovenly in his habits, becomes the subject of contempt and derision among the more cleanly of his fellows; and in many cases the first move towards amendment is discernible from improved external appearance.

"We allow of no badges or rewards of any description to be given for good conduct, excepting that of removing the iron from the leg, after a long trial: this is done in but few cases. The encouragement

held out to the prisoners is derived from the pleasurable sensations to be experienced only under an improved condition of mind. This (if sincerely believed) soon proves itself as sufficient.

"All nations have an equal interest in the reformation of criminals. The frightful accumulation of injury resulting to society from permitting the juvenile delinquent to grow into the confirmed manhood of villany, should stimulate all governments to the immediate establishment of juvenile reformatory prisons.

"It will at all times be the source of pleasure as well as of instruction to me to receive communications on the subject from yourself or countrymen, the American penitentiaries having already claimed much attention in this country."

Juvenile Penitentiary in Paris.

On the 29th of February last, M. Delessert (Prefect of Police) made a very full and intelligent report of the state of the Paris prison for the detention of juvenile offenders. The whole document is well worth transcription, but the following passages are the most important.

The whole number of cells is 550, but several of these are occupied for general prison purposes, such as for officers and attendants' rooms, infirmaries, &c., so as to leave only 436 cells for occupation, and these were all occupied at the time of the report.

"In my former report of the 29th of June last, I have mentioned to you how far this system of simple separation differed from the system of rigorous confinement, designated by the name of the Pennsylvania system. In this system the principal object is *intimidation*. In the one adopted by me, the main object is the separation of one from another. The former produces a terror of chastisement rather than correction. The latter, in preventing the reciprocal innoculation of vicious propensities, and in allowing the exercise of an individual action on each prisoner, which action no exterior force can resist, possesses the most efficient advantages of the Pennsylvania system, and offers numerous chances of reformation which result from exhortation, instruction and labour—instruments of great power when they act without obstacles. In my opinion absolute solitary confinement is principally applicable to adults hardened in crime, and such as have become inaccessible to repentance by long habits of vice; but for the young, in whom vice is still but a germ, and whose faults originate in misery or from being forsaken by their families, the severity of such a detention would be not only useless, but less efficient than those means in the system of which I have spoken."

I have extracted this passage to show how entirely the distinctive character of the Pennsylvania system is misapprehended. It would be difficult to describe that system in more accurate and appropriate language than is here used to describe the discipline which obtains in the Paris prison;—it prevents the reciprocal innoculation of vicious propensities, allows the exercise of individual action on each prisoner, and affords opportunities of exhortation, instruction and labour, without the external obstacles which other systems present;—and this discipline has been attended with the very class of advantages in the Paris juvenile prison which have always been ascribed to the separate or Pennsylvania system, in contradistinction from the silent or Auburn system. In another part of the report the peculiarities of the system are declared to be, that the prisoner is unknown to his fellows (*incognito*)—that he is kept in silence and at labour.

The police of the prison consists of thirty-one officers. There are grounds and yards connected with the establishment, to which the convicts have access for twenty or thirty minutes once every fifth or sixth day in winter, and every third or fourth in summer. This, it is said, proves abundantly sufficient for health and strength. The separate principle is rigorously preserved in this outdoor exercise, as well as in the religious services of the Sabbath; and in respect to the last it is affirmed that isolation is found decidedly favourable to attention and inward contemplation. In abandoning the old social system, when the prisoners were instructed together, some difficulty was experienced in adapting a system of instruction suited to strict solitary confinement. They teach reading, writing, orthography, and the construction of sentences; and it is considered a very important advantage, peculiar to the separate system, that each convict receives instruction precisely suited to his capacity and proficiency, (which, if he was in a class, would be impracticable,)—that the lesson, instead of being a task, as under the social system, is a recreation; and that the attention, which used to be diverted by a thousand trifles, is fixed on the subject in hand.

"Of the trades used at the time of the change of system," M. Delessert says, "I only retained those that are compatible with confinement in cells. With regard to the choice of professions introduced since, or to be introduced for the future, there are certain principles which should in my opinion be adhered to as closely as possible. Trades, the apprenticeship to which is long and difficult, or the products of which are not of general consumption, or those in which work is done with machines which can be moved and attended by men, or those which in town can be exercised only in few workshops, and which of course afford to the workman but few

chances of employment, should be excluded from the penitentiary; whilst, on the contrary, those which require but an ordinary aptness and a short time of instruction, or those which are most generally exercised and always in activity; those in which the workman soonest reaches the proposed end, completing his object in all its parts, or those in which manual labour is used, or in which he makes use of only simple and cheap instruments, must be considered as the only proper trades to secure the results which the administration wishes to obtain: that is to say, to create during the confinement the taste and the aptness for a productive labour, which, after release, may lead from idleness, and thus crush the first causes of all crime."

In the occupations of the house we find 59 workers in copper; 90 jewellers and buckle-makers; 20 gilders; 60 joiners and turners; 40 brass chain makers; 33 locksmiths; 20 metallic button-makers; 33 shoemakers; 11 basket-makers; and 45 hosiers. The contractors pay a portion of the expense of fuel and lights, and furnish each workman with a leather or linen apron, as his trade requires. The price paid for the labour of the boys increases from 100 per cent. to 450 per cent., as they advance in skill, and it is made the interest of contractors to give the boys the earliest and best knowledge of the trade which they follow.

The prevailing punishments are: 1. The privation of going into the yards or grounds. 2. Bread and water diet in cells; and 3. The same diet in dark cells. The longest time of this confinement does not exceed two days, without the special order of the Prefect of Police. These punishments were inflicted upon three or four times the number under the old or social system that have required it under the new or separate system.

The most decided testimony is given also to the superior influence of the separate system upon the health of the convicts, 5 or 6 per cent. being on the sick list now, where 10 or 11 per cent. were formerly; and as to the expense, it is found that the separate system, with all its advantages, costs but a trifling sum (say $8 per annum per head) more than the social, and M. Delessert expresses his decided conviction that a perfectly accurate estimate would show it to be less; and he speaks of the high advantages of the new system as more than compensating such a difference, even if it existed.

"It will not be possible to know positively how far the new system intimidates and redresses until after the release of a certain number of children exempt from the deadly influence of the old system. However, without any reference to the experience obtained from foreign penitentiaries, the facts obtained in that of la Roquette, and the very satisfactory results obtained in the quarter of paternal cor-

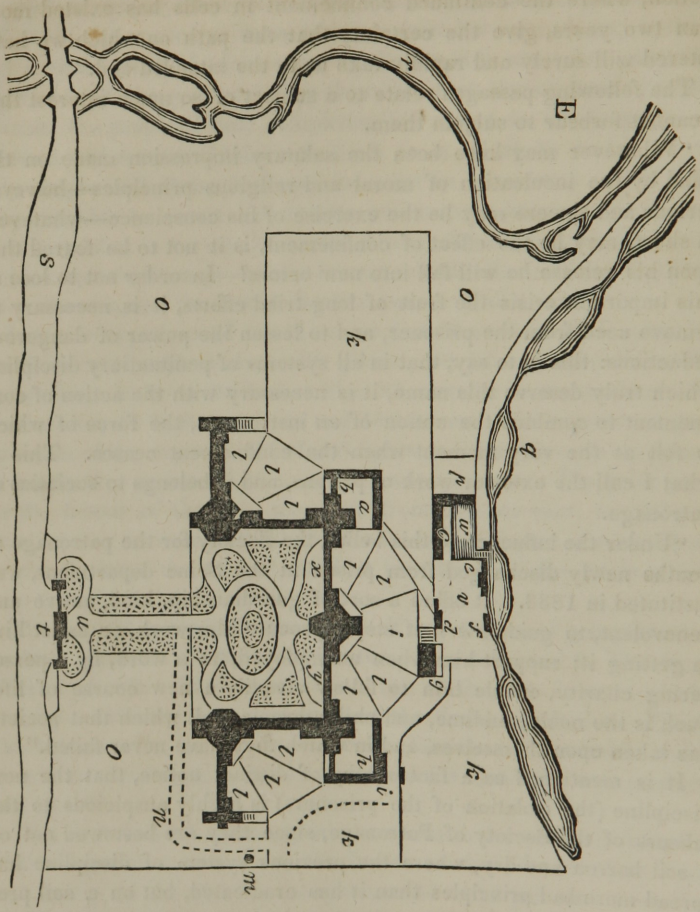
rection, where the continued confinement in cells has existed more than two years, give the certainty that the path on which we have entered will surely and rapidly take us to the intended end."

The following passages relate to a subject of so much interest that I cannot forbear to subjoin them.

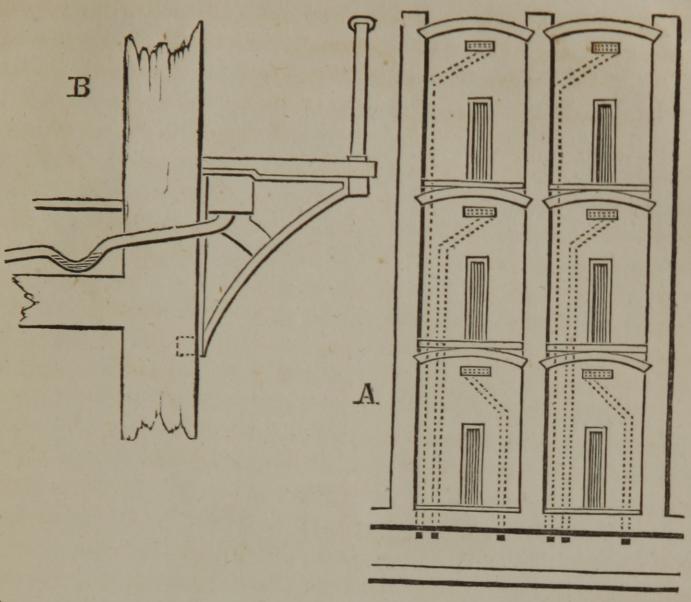
"Whatever may have been the salutary impression made on the mind by the inculcation of moral and religious principles—however serious and sincere may be the exercise of his conscience—whatever, in short, may be the effect of confinement, is it not to be feared that upon his release he will fall into new errors? In order not to lose at this important crisis the fruit of long tried efforts, it is necessary to remove need from the prisoner, and to lessen the power of dangerous seductions: this is to say, that in all systems of penitentiary discipline which truly deserve this name, it is necessary with the action of confinement to combine the action of an instrument, the force of which is felt at the very moment when the confinement ceases. This is what I call the exterior work of prisons, and it belongs to societies of patronage.

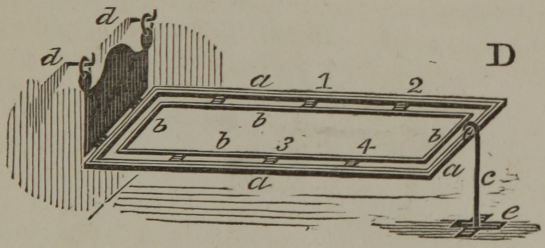
"Under the influence of this belief, the Society for the patronage of youths newly discharged from prison in the Seine department, was instituted in 1833. It offers a sort of guardianship, kind, active and benevolent, to guide his first steps; procure him work, or assist him in getting it; support him when unemployed; in a word, by a persevering charity, enable him to follow steadily a new course of life. Such is the noble, sublime, and philanthropic task which that society has taken upon themselves, and in which they have never failed."

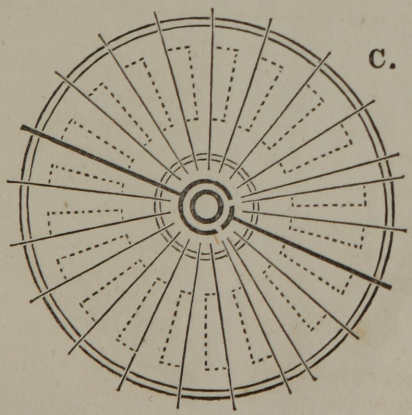
It is mentioned as a fact worthy of distinct notice, that the new discipline (the isolation of the prisoners) is highly auspicious to the labours of the Society of Patronage, since they are bestowed not on a soil barren and dry, where the previous system of discipline has spread more bad principles than it has eradicated, but on a soil prepared and cultivated, where are deposited precious germs. Thus, when the task of the prison administration is accomplished, in the perilous moment of transition the Society of Patronage comes in to continue the work, to improve it, to finish it; to complete the machinery, the final object of which could never be accomplished without it. "This is," says the minister, "a penitentiary organization inferior to none of those already existing. Under its influence the means of correcting, of reforming, and afterwards taking care of the delinquent youth, are combined so as to give each other mutual assistance. I consider the institution too well cemented and too rational not to be in all respects maintained wherever it exists, and established wherever it can be."



a Bake-house.
Brew-house.
Gas-house.
Steam-boilers, &c.
b Kitchen and scullery.
c Coal sheds.
d Cart-house, stable and shed.
e Superintendent's stable.
f Gardener's house.
g Cow-house.
h Wash-houses, drying-rooms, laundries.
i Engine-house and Engineer's shop.
j Superintendent's garden.
k Garden.
l Airing Court.
m Well.
n Carriage road.
o Cultivated grounds.
p Burial ground.
q Canal.
r River.
s Road.
t Lodge.
u Entrance.
v Farm yard.
w Dock.
x Male side.
y Female side.


B
A


d
d
a
1
2
D
b
b
b
3
4
b
a
c
a
e


C.